

APPENDIX A:

NATIONAL REGISTER DOCUMENTATION

THE WILLIAM ELLIOT HOUSE

No information provided for this page.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Elliot, William, House

other names/site number Conner, John, House/ Delaware Cultural Resource Survey N-4016

2. Location

street & number 2206 Newport Gap Pike

N/A not for publication

city, town Wilmington

N/A vicinity

state Delaware

code 10

county New Castle

code 003

zip code 19808

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☐ private

☐ public-local

☒ public-State

☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)

☐ district

☐ site

☐ structure

☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

2 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/dwellingCorn Crib: AGRICULTURE/storageShed: DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/dwellingAGRICULTURE/storageDOMESTIC/secondary structure**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic RevivalCorn Crib: NO STYLEShed: NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Tera Cotta Chimney Pot

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William Elliot House (see Plate 1, p. 8) is located at 2206 Newport Gap Pike, Wilmington, Delaware, on roughly 1.5 acres on the south side of Newport Gap Pike (State Route 41), approximately 0.3 miles west of its intersection with Kirkwood Highway (State Route 2). Situated on the floodplain of the Red Clay Creek, approximately 200 feet east of the creek, the dwelling is surrounded by mature trees with a large open lawn to the south. A hedge shields the house along its 172-foot frontage with Newport Gap Pike. At the time of this examination, the architectural character of the structure remained intact. Subsequent vandalism has stripped the building of all original fabric.

Probably built in the 1870s, the dwelling is a three-bay, two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, frame structure with a center gable. A two-bay, two-story, shed-roofed rear ell forms the northwest facade. A third bay on the northwest facade is part of a one-story frame shed-roof addition that wraps around the southeast facade of the ell (see Plate 2, p. 10). This addition exhibits two periods of construction, the earlier section extending to the southwest of the ell. Another section added in more recent times runs along the whole length of the southeast facade of the ell and the earlier addition. The dimensions of the northeast and northwest facades measure roughly 28½ feet by 36½ feet.

The foundation of the original structure consists of stuccoed fieldstone. Stuccoed concrete blocks and fieldstone were used as foundation materials under the additions. The entire structure is sheathed with German siding that measures 5½ inches wide and 1 inch thick. Five inches of siding are revealed after the overlap of the boards. The northeast facade is covered by a full-length hip-roofed porch supported by five

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square posts on a 7-foot by 28½-foot poured concrete pad. A single interior end chimney stack topped with a terra cotta/ceramic pot penetrates the shed roof of the ell. All roofs are sheathed with asphalt shingles and exhibit projecting cornices ornamented with fascia and cyma recta molding.

There are currently three exterior entrances into the dwelling. The centrally placed formal entrance in the northeast facade consists of two elongated arch-shaped panels with molded rails over two rectangular panels. Unadorned surrounds are crowned by a two-light rectangular transom. Modern press board doors with plain surrounds are located on the southeast and southwest additions. Seams in the German siding below the window in the southeast facade of the original structure may denote a former entrance. A similar seam in the northwest facade of the earlier addition may have also been an earlier entrance.

Ground-level windows on the original structure are treated with unadorned surrounds and sills, flanked with paneled shutters. Unadorned lintels are capped with small protruding shelves. Except for louvered shutters, second-story window treatment is similar to the first story. All windows on both floors of the original structure are six-over-six light sash. Although the hinge pintles remain on the walls of the dwelling, many of the shutters are nailed or screwed to the weatherboard. Some shutters have been installed upside down. A two-over-two light sash window, with the upper sash matching the peak of the cross gable, allows light into the attic. Two pairs of one-over-one sash windows penetrate the peaks of either gable end. One six-over-six light sash window sits in the northwest wall of the addition. Five modern one-over-one light aluminum sash windows line the southwest and southeast walls of the newer addition.

The interior space of the original dwelling is divided into a two room or hall-parlor plan with a rear ell used as a kitchen (see Figure 3, p. 12). The two rooms are of approximately equal dimensions but have been oriented on different axes. One enters through the northeast facade into

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the wider of the front rooms or the hall, located in the north corner of the structure. Windows penetrate the northeast and northwest walls. A door to the southwest leads to a stairway. The stairwell to the second story is located between the kitchen and the hall. There are 12 treads, each 2 feet 8 inches wide and 9½ inches deep with a 7½ inch rise. Another door enters into the parlor in the east corner of the dwelling. The removal of some of the paneling in the south corner of the hall revealed a doorway that entered a small interior vestibule where entry to the kitchen, the parlor, and the basement stairway converged.

The parlor contains two windows, one in the northeast wall, the other in the southeast. A door in the west corner leads into the previously mentioned vestibule. The stairs to the full basement, accessed from the vestibule, consist of 9 treads, each 3 inches wide and 8 inches deep with 8 inch risers. Structural features revealed in the basement include 3-inch by 8-inch circular sawn joists as well as tongue-and-groove plank flooring that averages 3 inches wide. The basement also has a poured concrete floor and stuccoed fieldstone walls.

The kitchen has two windows opposite each other on the northwest and southeast walls. The southeast window opens into a half-bathroom installed in the more recent addition. A paneled door exits into this addition, while a similar door enters the earlier addition through the southwest wall. A slender chimney pile also protrudes from the center of this wall.

A moveable two-step stair allows descent into the older addition from the kitchen. Immediately to the right is a window. Another window penetrates the southwest wall, where a door leads to the rear yard via a two-tread concrete block step. A door on the southeast wall leads into the newer addition. Removal of paneling on this wall revealed horizontal tongue-and-groove planks that overlapped the south corner post of the ell.

The most recent portion of the shed-roof addition contains two windows in the southwest wall and three windows and a door in the southeast wall.

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A small half-bathroom has been installed in the addition by attaching modern wooden paneling to both sides of stud framing. A single concrete step lies outside the door to the exterior.

On the second floor, a large bedroom lies immediately to the southwest of the top of the stairs. A stud frame covered with modern wooden paneling has been installed along the southwest wall in order to make two closets. This framing and paneling also conceals a slender chimney pile. In the north corner of the room a door opens into an original smaller closet.

At the top of the stairs, a hallway stretches to the northeast wall and a window that is flanked by two rooms. Along the northwest wall of this hallway are three doors, the first revealing the stairs to the attic while the others open into closets. The bedroom in the northwest corner of the house contains a closet and one window on each of its exterior walls. Another smaller bedroom, in the northeast corner of the house, has windows comparably placed in its exterior walls. Entrance into a full bathroom, placed behind this smaller bedroom, is accomplished through a doorway at the top of the stairs.

The attic stairs consist of eight treads that turn ninety degrees above the hall closets. The attic is split into two rooms of roughly equal dimensions. The northeast half of the attic is enclosed by a thin wall finished with lath and plaster, as is the inside of the enclosed space. A vertical board-and-batten door allows entry into the finished room. The northwest half of the attic, into which the attic stairs empty, is unfinished. Common rafters are butted to a ridge board and lapped to a floor board doubling as a false plate. Chimney piles are also visible at both gable ends, indicating that the piles on the lower floors were removed at some earlier date.

An interesting structural element revealed in the attic is the framing for the shed roof of the ell. Shallowly sloped rafters, butted to the common rafters of the gable, have been placed perpendicularly above the

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ceiling joists of the ell. Wood shingles, still attached to the shingle lathe with machine-made wire nails, are present underneath the joint of the shed roof with the gable roof. Apparently the roof of the ell was either flat or at a shallower angle at an earlier date. If this were not the case, shingles would not have been installed lower than the current shed-roof. Close inspection of the cornice treatment supports this interpretation. The ornamented cornice of the ell, which forms an uninterrupted roof line with the cornice of the gable, begins two feet lower than the joint of the ell's shed-roof with the gable. The intervening space between the actual roof line of the ell and the cornice has been adorned with German siding flush with the edge of the shed-roof and the gable's projecting cornice, not the massing of the wall. A box cornice above the cyma molding on the cornice of the southwest facade also conceals rain spouts of an earlier roof system. An aluminum gutter attached to the box cornice currently collects rainfall off the roof of the ell.

Throughout the interior of the original structure, window and door treatment consists of molded surrounds. One interesting feature is a two-light transom similar to the transoms in the formal entrance that tops the entry into the kitchen from the stairway landing. All rooms on the first floor are sheathed with modern wooden paneling, different shades installed in each room. Formica was also used in the kitchen and rear addition in combination with modern paneling. Quarter-round molding was used in many corner joints. Wall-to-wall carpeting covers the flooring of all rooms except the kitchen, which is sheathed with linoleum.

The original field examination of the Elliot House was conducted in September 1987. Between October 1987 and January 1988, vandals destroyed or removed much of its original architectural integrity. Exterior siding has been stripped off the northwest and the southwest facades, revealing circular-sawn wall studs that measure 3 inches by 4 inches. Also exposed is a 4-inch by 6-inch corner post supported by a down-brace attached to a

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4-inch by 8-inch vertically sawn sill that runs the length of the northwest wall of the main structure. Studs were cut completely through to install this down-brace, indicating that it was added after the original construction of the house. Almost all window sash has been removed as well as most shutters on the ground level. The majority of the doors and their associated hardware are gone. Some baseboard and trim has been removed. Modern wooden paneling has been salvaged by vandals. Electrical wiring and plumbing fixtures have been removed. The stud-frame room in the southeast portion of the ell addition has been destroyed. The partition wall between the kitchen and the shed portion of the ell has been removed from the house, leaving just the stud and post framing. The chimney pile below the roof line is gone except for the terra-cotta pot. Rugs have been removed from all rooms. Construction crews preparing the property for the proposed road improvements have removed the hedges that once separated the building from traffic on Newport Gap Pike.

Two outbuildings approximately 100 feet to the southwest of the dwelling sit within the current boundaries of the property (see Figure 4, p. 16). A small frame gable-roofed one-story storage shed, sheathed with German siding, was probably built during the twentieth century. A slightly larger one-story frame gable-roofed building is possibly a late nineteenth-century chicken shed. Neither structure contributes to the Elliot House's period of significance.

The property limits of the Elliot House begin at a spot on Newport Gap Pike approximately 170 feet west of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's intersection with the Newport Gap Pike. In a southwesterly direction, the line abutts the former holdings of Andrew Jackson Williams for 330 feet. The boundary then runs 168 feet to the westnorthwest entering a wooded section. Turning towards the northeast, the line meets the Newport Gap Pike 370 feet distant, paralleling the edge of the same wooded section. The line then runs along Newport Gap Pike for 172 feet to the point of

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beginning. These boundaries encompass the areas of historic occupation and include a tract of land purchased by William Elliot from James Cranston in 1875.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Industry

Period of Significance

1875-1885

1875-1885

Significant Dates

N/A

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The William Elliot House, built ca. 1875, is significant as an example of the transformation of rural areas in the late nineteenth century into centers of early industry and transportation networks. The Elliot House functioned as a dwelling during the period of its significance but relates most strongly to the growth of manufacturing establishments and the introduction of the railroad in the Red Clay Creek valley during the 1870s. Efficient transportation networks allowed local manufacturing concerns to expand production. Increased production required larger workforces and resulted in the development of rural industrial communities. A manifestation of these new communities was a demand for increased housing. The Elliot House reflects this need for housing during the late nineteenth century in the rural industrial hamlets of northern New Castle County. As such the Elliot House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (reflection of broad patterns of history).

The Elliot House is located in the Piedmont Zone, an area north of the fall line in New Castle County characterized by nearly level to steep hills and clay soils mixed with loose rocks (see Figure 2, p. 3).⁷⁹ Another feature is major and minor streams that flow primarily north to south into the Christina River and then east into the Delaware River. The Elliot

⁷⁹ David L. Ames, Bernard L. Herman, and Rebecca J. Siders, *The Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Newark, Delaware: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, 1987), p. 86.

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House relates to property type 6D in the *Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (Manufacturing, 1830-1880 +/-: Industrialization and Capitalization). Manufacturing, defined as the mechanical or chemical transformation of inorganic or organic materials into new products, is characterized by mills, factories, or plants.⁸⁰ The Elliot House also relates to property type 12D, Transportation & Communication in the same period. This property type is described as enterprises engaged in passenger and freight transportation by railway, highway, water, or air, or furnishing services related to transportation.⁸¹ The property type 13D (Architecture, Engineering & Decorative Arts, 1830-1880 +/-) also relates to the Elliot House. This property type encompasses all objects, structures and sites which historically trace the development of material culture defined as any significant reflection of individual and social tastes and trends.⁸²

The Piedmont Zone in the period 1830-1880 +/- was distinguished by an expansion of industrial manufacturing concerns and the establishment of transportation networks that facilitated the movement of goods and people between rural areas and urban markets.⁸³ Although industry and manufacturing did increase dramatically during this period, the landscape of the Piedmont Zone remained rural and agricultural. Water-powered mills grew up in the many river and stream valleys of the zone and spurred new communities in rural New Castle County. Turnpikes and railroads were built, linking these communities and manufacturing establishments with urban

⁸⁰ Ames et al., p. 95.

⁸¹ Ames et al., p. 97.

⁸² Ames et al., p. 98.

⁸³ Bernard L. Herman and Rebecca J. Siders, *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan: Historic Contexts* (Newark, Delaware: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, 1986), pp. 33-37.

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markets and shipping centers, such as Wilmington and Philadelphia, that distributed the manufactured goods and produce throughout the United States.

The Elliot house primarily functioned as a dwelling during the period of its significance. The historic theme Architecture, Engineering & Decorative Arts normally would be most descriptive of the historic patterns associated with the Elliot house. Ornamental motifs from two architectural styles popular in the mid-nineteenth century -- Greek Revival and Gothic Revival -- are exhibited in the Elliot House. Borrowing classical Greek motifs, Greek Revival structures were often ornamented with pedimented and/or colonnaded porches as well as elaborated door surrounds.⁸⁴ Gothic Revival buildings exhibited center-gable facades, pointed arch windows and projecting cornices.⁸⁵ Other styles exerting strong influences during the nineteenth century included Italianate and Queen Anne. The majority of these styles were formal expressions of aesthetic taste and social status.

Although these styles influenced vernacular building traditions, to a great degree utilitarian requirements remained the dominant characteristic of American housing in the mid-nineteenth century. The homes of the rural middle class, which the Elliot house documents, exhibited architectural ornament by combining motifs from different styles. The Elliot House simultaneously possesses a center-gable facade penetrated by a pointed arch window in the attic and projecting cornices reminiscent of Gothic Revival, and a colonnaded porch often found on Greek Revival structures (see Plate 1, p. 8). The subdued ornamental eclecticism exhibited by the Elliot House reflects a concern for shelter and home, rather than a desire to make a public statement through architecture. The lack of a dominant style helps

⁸⁴ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1986), pp. 179-184.

⁸⁵ McAlester, pp. 197-200.

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reveal that other historic patterns played a more prominent role in the construction of the dwelling.

Upon further examination, it is the association of the Elliot House with the growth of industrial communities in the Red Clay Creek valley that proves to be significant (see Figure 7, p. 28). Long recognized as an efficient source of power, Red Clay Creek had grist and sawmills located along its swiftly flowing stream as early as the late seventeenth century.⁸⁶ The majority of these mills were involved in an agricultural economy, grinding grains and sawing lumber for local consumption and use. The Greenbank Mill, a late eighteenth-century mill complex located approximately a quarter mile upstream of the Elliot House, is situated on the site of a seventeenth-century mill of log construction.⁸⁷ Another sawmill was located on Bread and Cheese Island, south of the Elliot House. The Graves Mill on Burris Run, a tributary of Red Clay Creek near Ashland, also operated during the early eighteenth century.⁸⁸ The nineteenth century witnessed a great expansion in manufacturing on a national level. Through an increased diversification of mills and manufacturing establishments in the period 1830-1880 +/-, the Red Clay Creek valley participated in this burgeoning national economy.

In 1823 the Fell family began producing spices for export throughout the

⁸⁶ An excellent overview of manufacturing in the Red Clay Creek valley is C. W. Pursell, Jr., "That Never Failing Stream: A History of Milling Along Red Clay Creek During the Nineteenth Century" (M. A. thesis, University of Delaware, 1958).

⁸⁷ Greenbank Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-191. On file at Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Dover, Delaware. Hereafter referred to as BAHP.

⁸⁸ Graves Mill Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-5005. On file at BAHP.

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east coast in a mill on Red Clay Creek north of Greenbank.⁸⁹ The Delaware Iron Works produced sheet metal and shovels and spades for use in the Pennsylvania coal mines. These ironworks at Wooddale started operation in 1826.⁹⁰ Textile mills also operated along the Red Clay Creek. Kiamensi Woolen Factory and the Stanton Woolen Company both operated in the 1870s. The Auburn Mills at Yorklyn was a paper mill, a cotton mill, and a woolen mill at different periods in the nineteenth century.⁹¹ The Elliot House, however, most strongly relates to the Marshallton Ironworks.

Located south of the Elliot house along Red Clay Creek, the Marshallton Ironworks was situated near the site of a grist mill operated by James Buckingham in 1819. The grist mill was purchased by John Marshall in 1835 and expanded by the addition of a rolling mill. The mill changed owners several times but continued to manufacture sheet iron. Its greatest period of prosperity came in the 1880s, when the installation of a steam engine and boilers allowed for the expansion of the plant. From producing 700 tons of sheet metal in 1880, the plant was able to manufacture 2400 tons of sheet in 1884. Part of this expansion was due to attempts to produce a special-finish sheet iron known as tin-plate.⁹²

Tin-plate was a method of applying tin to sheet iron that was extensively practiced in Great Britain. Used to produce domestic and dairy utensils, tin-plate became extremely popular in the late nineteenth century for

⁸⁹ Fell Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-6760. On file at BAHP.

⁹⁰ Wooddale Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-4092. On file at BAHP.

⁹¹ Auburn Mills Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-5003. On file at BAHP.

⁹² C. W. Pursell, Jr., *Ironworks on the Red Clay Creek in the 19th Century: The Wooddale and Marshallton Mills of New Castle County, Delaware* (Wilmington, Delaware: Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc., 1962).

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use in food canning and gasoline packaging and in the production of roofing material. Until the 1890s England possessed a virtual world monopoly on tin-plate production, while the United States was the largest importer of the sheet metal. Attempts to produce tin-plate in the United States had begun in the 1820s but were not financially successful. Starting in the 1860s, demand for tin-plate made production lucrative, and American manufacturers again attempted to refine the process. Immigrants knowledgeable in tin-plate production techniques began to be available due to periodic depressions in England.⁹³ William Elliot, born in England and listed as a tinsmith in the 1880 Census, was probably associated with tin-plate manufacturing attempts at the Marshallton factory.⁹⁴

Prior to 1875, the site of the Elliot House was part of a larger farm parcel owned by James Cranston (see Figure 8, p. 34). The *Delaware State Directory and Gazetteer for 1874-1875* listed Elliot as a tinner living in Wilmington.⁹⁵ In 1875 William Elliot purchased a one-acre parcel from Cranston.⁹⁶ Although previously assessed only thirty dollars, in 1881 Elliot was listed as the owner of a lot containing a frame house and frame shop valued at \$1000 (see Figure 9, p. 35).⁹⁷ The term "tinner" is difficult to interpret, especially with the presence of the Marshallton

⁹³ W. E. Minchinton, *The British Tinplate Industry, A History* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1957).

⁹⁴ United States Census, State of Delaware, Manuscript Returns: 1880. Microfilm on file at Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware. Hereafter referred to as CHAE.

⁹⁵ *Delaware State Directory and Gazetteer for 1874-1875* (Wilmington, Delaware: Commercial Printing Company, 1874), p. 133.

⁹⁶ New Castle County Deed Book: O-10-177; New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, Delaware.

⁹⁷ New Castle County Tax Assessments: Christiana Hundred, 1877-1881; On file at Delaware State Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

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mill in the vicinity. Wilmington also had a sizeable tinware manufacturing community. Twelve tinware manufacturers employing over sixty men are listed in the 1880 Industry Schedule.⁹⁸ Although Elliot might have operated a tinsmith shop in his "frame shop," in all likelihood he was working at the Marshallton mill. Local historian C. W. Pursell, Jr., reports that the Marshallton Ironworks was among the earliest producers of tin-plate in the United States in the late nineteenth century.⁹⁹ Aged seventy-one, Elliot was described by the 1880 Census as living in the house with his wife.¹⁰⁰ Whether he purchased the lot with the house or built the dwelling himself, Elliot's house constituted a substantial investment. His expertise in tin-plating would have proven valuable to the Marshallton mill and could have provided him with financial opportunities needed for the purchase of the lot and house. Elliot continued to own the house and property until his death in 1885, when the property was purchased by Bowen Pyle, a local carpenter (see Figure 10, p. 37).¹⁰¹

Expansion of manufacturing and industrial enterprises in the Red Clay Creek valley in the late nineteenth century was primarily due to the introduction of the railroad into the valley. Through its affect on manufacturing growth, the railroad contributed to the increased housing requirements of local communities. The erection of the Elliot House can be seen as a response to this need for housing, and thus strongly relates to the historic theme Transportation & Communication in the period 1830-1880.

⁹⁸ U. S. Census, State of Delaware, Industry Schedule: 1880; Microfilm on file at CHAE.

⁹⁹ Pursell, *Ironworks*, p. 24.

¹⁰⁰ U. S. Census, State of Delaware, Manuscript Returns: 1880; Microfilm on file at CHAE.

¹⁰¹ New Castle County Deed Book: W-18-558; New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, Delaware.

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Transportation networks had long been associated with the Red Clay Creek valley and were extremely important to the development of manufacturing communities in the valley. The Gap-to-Newport Turnpike, an early nineteenth century road, was a major artery in the movement of grains from the hinterlands of New Castle County and southeastern Pennsylvania to Newport, a terminal in the intra-coastal trading network.¹⁰² In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, an intra-coastal trading network was the primary means of transporting goods between major port cities and rural areas. Grains and other produce were carried across rough roads to inland ports where shallow draft ships loaded agricultural produce and unloaded finished household and agricultural goods not locally available. The turnpike also gave the millers and manufacturers along Red Clay Creek easier access to raw materials. Establishments such as the Fell Spice Mill, the Marshallton Ironworks, the Garrett Snuff Mills, and the Auburn Cotton Mills relied on outside sources for materials to transform into finished goods. Wanting to take advantage of new markets for manufactured articles and agricultural goods in the western United States, local manufacturers were instrumental in the construction of the Wilmington and Western Railroad in 1872.¹⁰³

Construction of the railroad was actively supported by most of the manufacturers along Red Clay Creek. William Phillips and Edward Mendenhall, owners of the Greenbank Mill and the Marshallton Ironworks respectively, were on the first board of directors of the railroad in 1869. Alan

¹⁰² Priscilla M. Thompson, *Springs/Red Clay Area, A Narrative Historical Overview, Newport to Gap Pike - Route 41, New Castle County, DE*, Delaware Department of Transportation Archeology Series no. 49 (Dover, Delaware, 1986), pp. 10-13.

¹⁰³ Wilmington and Western Railroad, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, N-4091. On file at BAHF. Also see Arthur G. Volkman, *The Story of the Wilmington and Western Railroad* (Wilmington: Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc., 1963).

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Wood of the Delaware Ironworks and William Garrett of the Yorklyn snuff mills joined Phillips in 1872 on the second board of directors. Wood and two other men later purchased \$500,000 of railroad bonds.¹⁰⁴ Wood also donated land for a station at Wooddale. C. J. Fell sold land for a station at Faulkland to the railroad company for one dollar. Although the floodplain of Mill Creek was considered as a possible route, the railroad directors decided upon Red Clay Creek, since more manufacturing establishments were located there. Ultimately stations were erected at or near the larger mills along Red Clay Creek including Marshallton.

The introduction of the railroad helped spur the expansion of manufacturing and resulted in employment opportunities at the Marshallton Ironworks. A railroad siding was built into the factory in order to facilitate the movement of goods at the plant. Before the coming of the railroad, Marshallton was not described as a separate entity from Newport. Afterward Marshallton became known as a thriving industrial community. The *Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1882* described Marshallton as a thriving manufacturing community consisting of neat new cottages and residences many of whose inhabitants were employed at the extensive ironworks.¹⁰⁵ Twenty-five men labored at the Marshallton mill in 1860. By 1870 the Marshallton mill employed thirty-seven men, and in 1880 the total had risen to fifty-five.¹⁰⁶ This increase in workers and laborers in the Red Clay Creek valley required additional housing. The Elliot House was not built until after the appearance of the railroad in the community, a period when the Marshallton Ironworks expanded greatly and attempted to manufacture tin-

¹⁰⁴ Volkman, p. 26.

¹⁰⁵ *The Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1882* (Wilmington, Delaware: Ferris Bros., 1882), p. 188.

¹⁰⁶ U. S. Census, State of Delaware, Industry Schedules: 1860, 1870, 1880. Microfilm on file at CHAE.

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plate.

Area residents state that five houses of similar size, plan and appearance, including the Elliot and the Andrew Jackson Williams houses, stood at one time along the southern side of Newport Gap Pike. After demolition of the Elliot and Williams houses, only one of these five will remain. Mr. Paul E. Bower, former owner of the Williams House (situated directly to the east of the Elliot House), states that he once met the daughter and granddaughter of A. J. Williams, who informed him that the five houses were constructed by A. J. Williams over a period of years. Deed transactions do not reveal property transfers from James Cranston, who owned all of the land along the south side of Newport Gap Pike prior to the 1870s, to A. J. Williams for more than the one-acre lot that Williams purchased from Cranston in 1873. Williams possibly built the dwellings for James Cranston in a speculative venture designed to profit by the increased need for housing necessitated by the expansion of local manufacturing establishments.

The William Elliot House is significant as an example of the transformation of rural areas in the late nineteenth century into centers of early industry and transportation networks. Long the site of milling and manufacturing establishments, the Red Clay Creek valley was dotted with small industrial hamlets by the 1870s. The late nineteenth century witnessed a shift from agricultural milling establishments to diverse manufacturing enterprises along Red Clay Creek. This shift mirrored developments in the growing industrial economy of northern New Castle County. Seeking more effective transportation in order to avail themselves of sources of raw materials and of markets, local manufacturers supported the construction of the Wilmington and Western Railroad. The introduction of the railroad allowed for a degree of expansion that needed larger workforces and resulted in new housing. The Elliot House is associated with these events in the Red Clay Creek valley and reflects the growth of

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manufacturing and the need for related dwellings. The development of industry and transportation in the Red Clay Creek valley during the period 1830-1880 +/- was extremely significant in the erection of the Elliot House and supports its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (reflection of broad patterns of history). Evidence that the property was the possible site of a tinning shop further supports Manufacturing as a historic theme influential in the building of the Elliot Houses. Although the house functioned primarily as a dwelling during the period of its significance, the emphasis of utilitarian requirements overshadows the importance of architectural styling and ornament as statements of aesthetic taste and social status.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # DE-
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record #

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Dover, Delaware

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.5

UTM References

A 18 445707 4368683
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point approximately 170 feet west of the B&O Railroad right-of-way at its intersection with Newport Gap Pike, thence along the boundary line separating the Elliot property from the Williams tract southwest 310 feet and continuing 80 feet past the Williams' southern boundary line, then 168 feet in a westnorthwesterly direction to the edge of a wooded area. In a northeast direction 370 feet to the Newport Gap Pike, then along the Pike 172 feet to the place of beginning.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary limit describes the tract occupied by William Elliot in the late nineteenth century.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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Garret Snuff Mill, N-329

Ashland Bridge, N-331

Wilmington & Western Railroad Historic District, N-4091

Wooddale Historic District, N-4092

Garrett Snuff Mill Historic District, N-4098

Mt. Cuba Historic District, N-5001

Auburn Mills Historic District, N-5003

Graves Mill Historic District, N-5005

Fell Historic District, N-6760

No information provided for this page.